AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A device for processing management data for a communications network, representing the use of the resources and/or services within said network, characterized in that it comprises ~~processing means~~ a processor ~~arranged so as to determine~~ which determines primary data representing a state of use of the network by at least one user who has made a service level agreement, or "SLA", with an operator of said network, from said management data, and ~~then to~~ compares said state of use with ancillary data representing said SLA, so as to determine an action to be undertaken in the event of the detection of at least one difference between said primary data and said ancillary data, said ~~processing means being arranged in order to determine~~ processor determines said action to be undertaken amongst an action group comprising a proposal to modify the SLA made between said user and said operator and/or a proposal to modify the services and/or resources of said network, and ~~to~~ adapts at least some of the SLA modification proposals according to said difference detected,

wherein said ~~processing means~~ processor ~~are arranged so as to~~ adapts at least some of the proposals to modify the services and/or resources of said network according to tertiary data.

2. (previously presented): A device according to Claim 1, characterized in that said primary data represent a use of at least one service and/or of resources.

3. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 1, characterized in that said ~~processing means~~ processor ~~are arranged so as to adapt~~ adapts at least some of the proposals to modify the services and/or resources of said network according to at least one SLA modification proposal.

4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 1, characterized in that said ~~processing means~~ processor ~~are arranged so as to determine~~ determines at least some of the states of use in the form of a usage profile (SUP) in a chosen time interval, from management data corresponding to said time interval.

6. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 1, characterized in that said ~~processing means~~ processor ~~are arranged so as to determine~~ determines an action to be undertaken from several states of use associated with different users or a state of use associated with a group of users.

7. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 1, characterized in that said ~~processing means are arranged so as to~~ processor automatically initiates an SLA modification when at least one condition is satisfied.

8. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 7, characterized in that said ~~processing means are arranged so as to~~ processor automatically initiates said SLA modification when it is associated with an increase in the tariff of the user less than a penalty representing the violation of the SLA by the user.

9. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 1, characterized in that said ~~processing means are arranged so as to~~ processor makes ~~their~~ said determinations periodically.

10. (previously presented): A device for managing a communications network (N), characterized in that it comprises a processing device according to claim 1.

11. (currently amended): A method of processing management data for a communications network, representing the use of the resources and/or of the services within said network, characterized in that it consists of determining primary data representing a state of use of the network by at least one user who has made a service level agreement, or "SLA", with an

operator of said network, from said management data, and then comparing said state of use with ancillary data representing said SLA, so as to determine an action to be undertaken in the event of the detection of at least one difference between said primary data and said ancillary data, said action to be undertaken is determined in an action group comprising a proposal to modify the SLA made between said user and said operator and/or a proposal to modify the services and/or resources of said network, at least some of the SLA modification proposals are adapted according to said difference detected,

wherein said action to be undertaken is performed by a processing means of a device, and

wherein at least some of the proposals to modify the services and/or resources of said network are adapted according to tertiary data.

12. (previously presented): A method according to Claim 11, characterized in that said primary data represent a use of at least one service and/or resource or resources.

13. (previously presented): A method according to Claim 11, characterized in that at least some of the proposals to modify the services and/or resources of said network (N) are adapted according to at least one proposal to modify the SLA.

14. (canceled).

15. (previously presented): A method according to Claim 11, characterized in that at least some of the states of use are determined in the form of a usage profile (SUP) in a chosen time interval, from management data corresponding to said time interval.

16. (previously presented): A method according to Claim 11, characterized in that some actions to be undertaken are determined from several states of use associated with different users or a state of use associated with a group of users.

17. (previously presented): A method according to Claim 11, characterized in that an SLA modification is instituted automatically when at least one condition is satisfied.

18. (previously presented): A method according to Claim 17, characterized in that said SLA modification is instituted when it is associated with an increase in the tariff of the user less than a penalty representing the violation of the SLA by the user.

19. (previously presented): A method according to Claim 11, characterized in that the determinations are made periodically.

20. (previously presented): A network chosen from a group comprising Internet (IP), ATM, Frame Relay, SDH and WDM networks, said network comprising at least said device according to claim 10.